

DRAFT

Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC) Interagency Handbook Reference Conditions

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PNVG Code: SFSP1

Potential Natural Vegetation Group: South Florida Slash Pine (Covers mostly Pine rocklands?)

Geographic Area: Central and Southern portions of Florida peninsula, Florida Keys.

Description: Occurs on sites ranging from Pine Flatwoods in poorly drained acid sands on ancient marine terraces, to pine rocklands occurring on alkaline limestone bedrock. Both types occur in flat terrain with total elevation range of the type ranging from 0-20 feet. Flatwoods and pine rocklands are significantly different floristically but very similar in structure. Overstory consists primarily of slash pine (*Pinus elliottii* var. *densa*) with crown closure ranging from 10 to 60%. Sometimes sparse but often species-rich understory consists of shrubby tropical evergreen hardwoods, palm, forbs, and graminoids. Common palms include Saw Palmetto and Cabbage Palm. Common shrubs include poisonwood, various scrub oak species, sumac, fig, wild tamarind, myrsine, Velvet seed, and marlberry. Typical graminoid and forb species include fire grass, three-awn grasses (*Aristida spp.*), muhly grass, beardgrass, partridge pea, and pinefern.

Fire Regime Description: Fire Regime Group 1. 1-5 year MFI with frequent, low intensity fires occurring at any time of year. Most acreage burns from April – June during early lightning season. Less common (1-2 /decade) moderately severe fires associated with drought occur primarily in March – May. Anthropogenic fire considered but not expected to change reference class composition. Natural fire regime currently altered by urbanization and artificially controlled water levels.

Vegetation Type and Structure

| Class* | Percent of Landscape | Description |
|------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| A: post replacement | 15 | 0-15 years: seedlings, saplings, poles of PIEL, individual tree gaps and clusters interspersed throughout the landscape resulting from mortality from wind or lightning. |
| B: mid-seral closed | 3 | 16 – 49 years old. Mid-story development in form of shrub layer. Increasingly dense hardwood and palm encroachment. May be result of mosaic hammock fire. |
| C: mid- seral open | 22 | 16-49 years old, Less than 40% tree canopy closure represented by scattered individual PIEL. Under story comprised of grasses, forbs, low shrubs and palms. |
| D: late- seral open | 55 | 50-200+ Less than 30% tree canopy closure, tree diameters up to 24" dbh. Under story comprised of grasses, forbs, low shrubs and palms. |
| E: late- seral closed | 5 | 50-200+ Hardwood hammock. May get to class A by mosaic fire followed by replacement fire once in class B. |
| Total | 100 | |

*Formal codes for classes A-E are: AESP, BMSC, CMSO, DLSO, and ELSC, respectively.

Fire Frequency and Severity

| Fire Severity | Fire Frequency (yrs) | Probability | Percent, All Fires | Description |
|------------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------------|--|
| Replacement Fire | 67 | .001 | 1 | Frequency for B only; probability across whole PNV |

| | | | | |
|----------------------|---|------|-----|--|
| Non-Replacement Fire | 3 | 0.29 | 99 | a-d, surface, isolated torch e mosaic |
| All Fire Frequency* | 3 | .29 | 100 | |

*All Fire Probability = sum of replacement fire and non-replacement fire probabilities. All Fire Frequency = inverse of all fire probability (previous calculation).

References

Brown, James K.; Smith, Jane Kapler, eds. 2000. Wildland fire in ecosystems: effects of fire on flora. Gen. Tech. Rep. RMRS-GTR-42-vol. 2. Ogden, UT: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. 257 p.

Schmidt, Kirsten M, Menakis, James P., Hardy, Colin C., Hann, Wendel J., Bunnell, David L. 2002. Development of coarse-scale spatial data for wildland fire and fuel management. Gen. Tech. Rep. RMRS-GTR-87. Fort Collins, CO: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. 41 p. + CD.

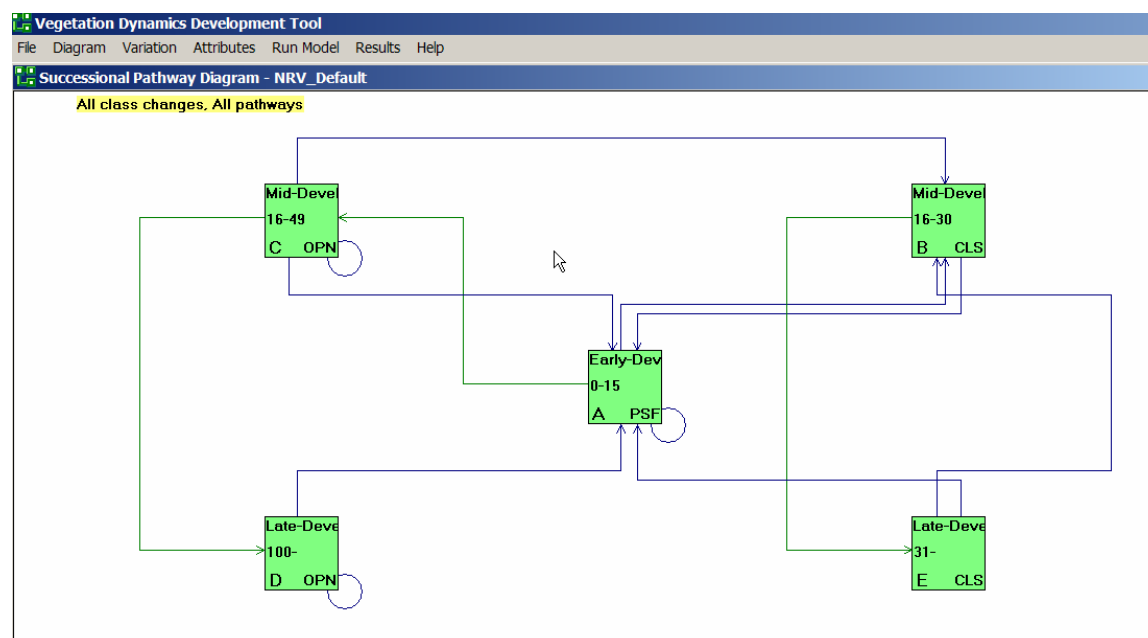
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Fire Sciences Laboratory (2002, December). Fire Effects Information System, [Online]. Available: <http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/>.

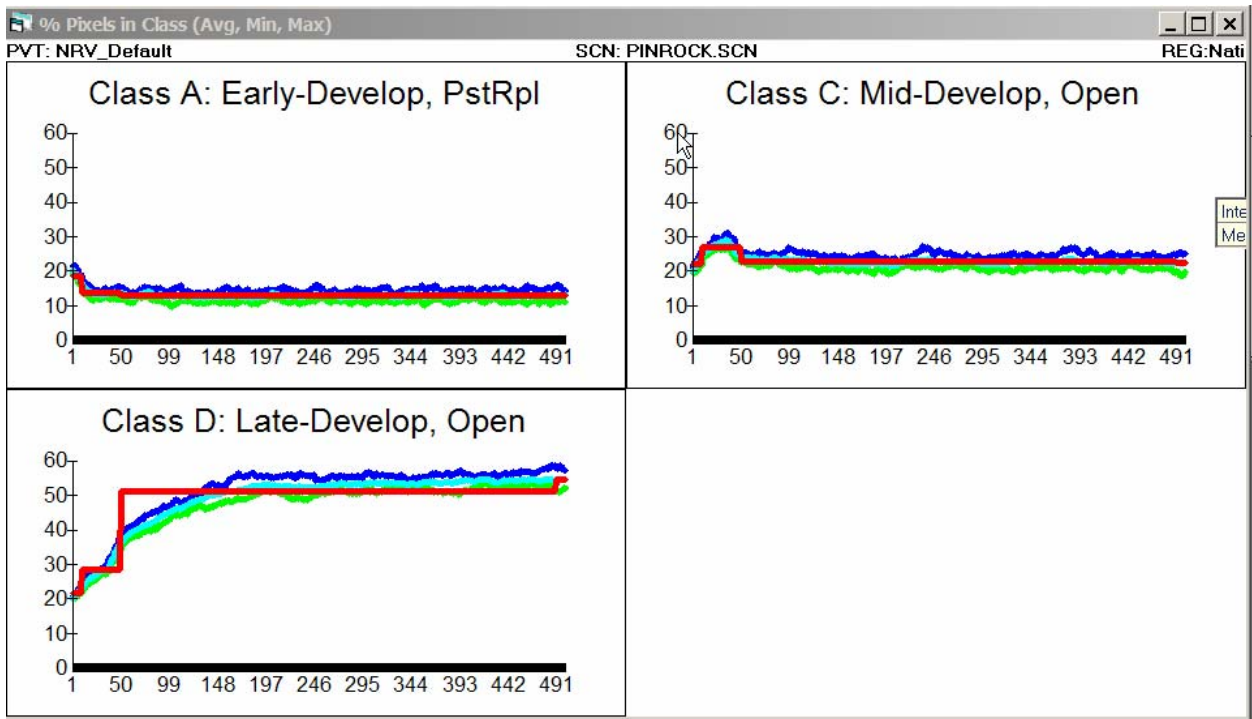
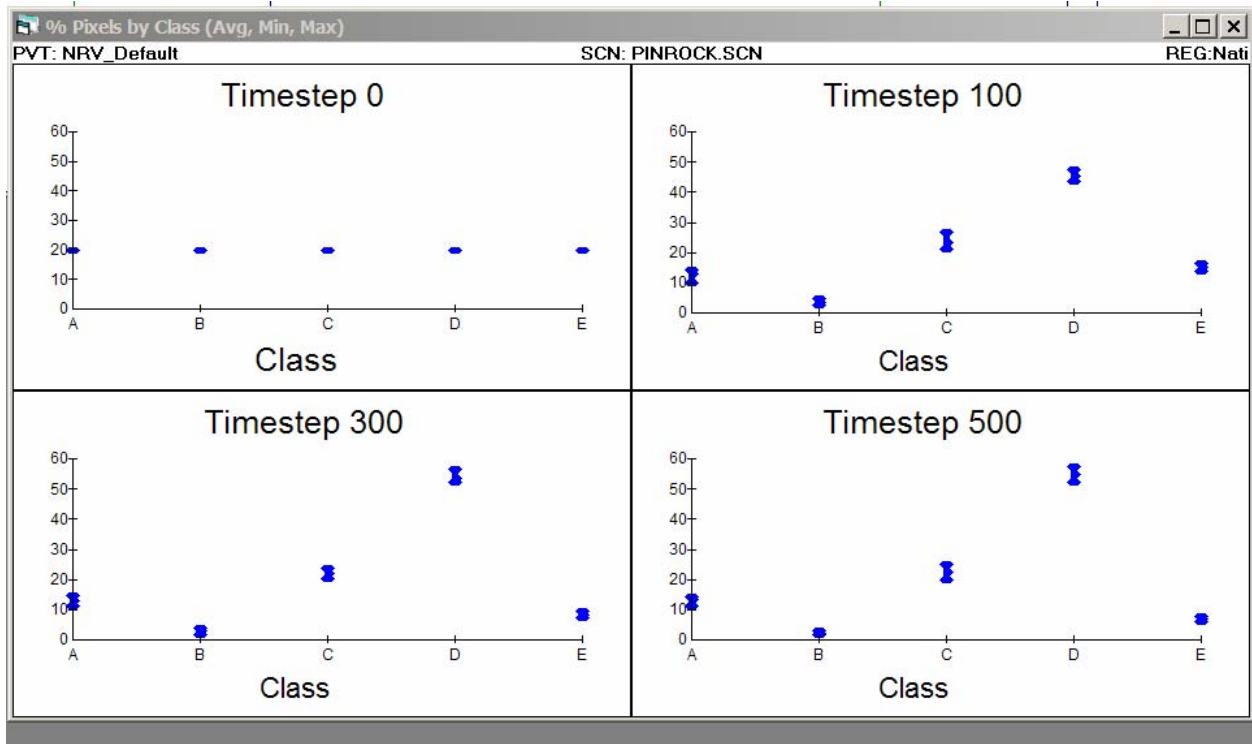
Myers, Ronald L., and Ewel, John J, eds. 1990. Ecosystems of Florida. University of Central Florida Press. 765 p.

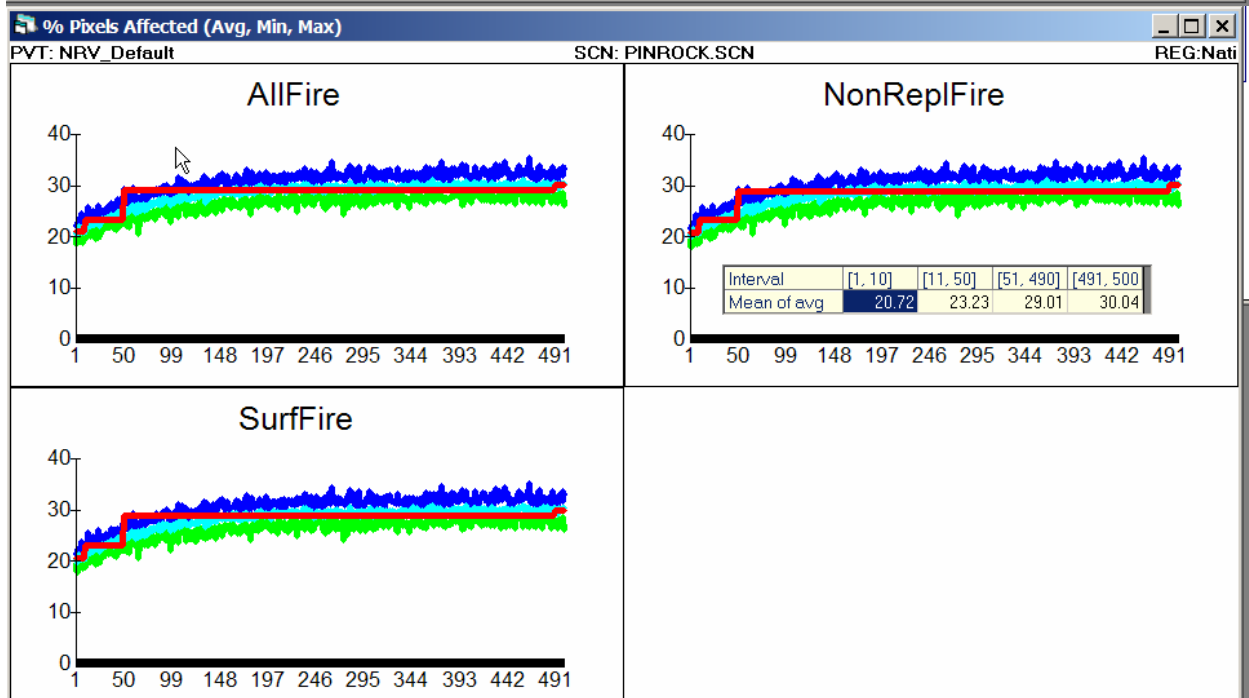
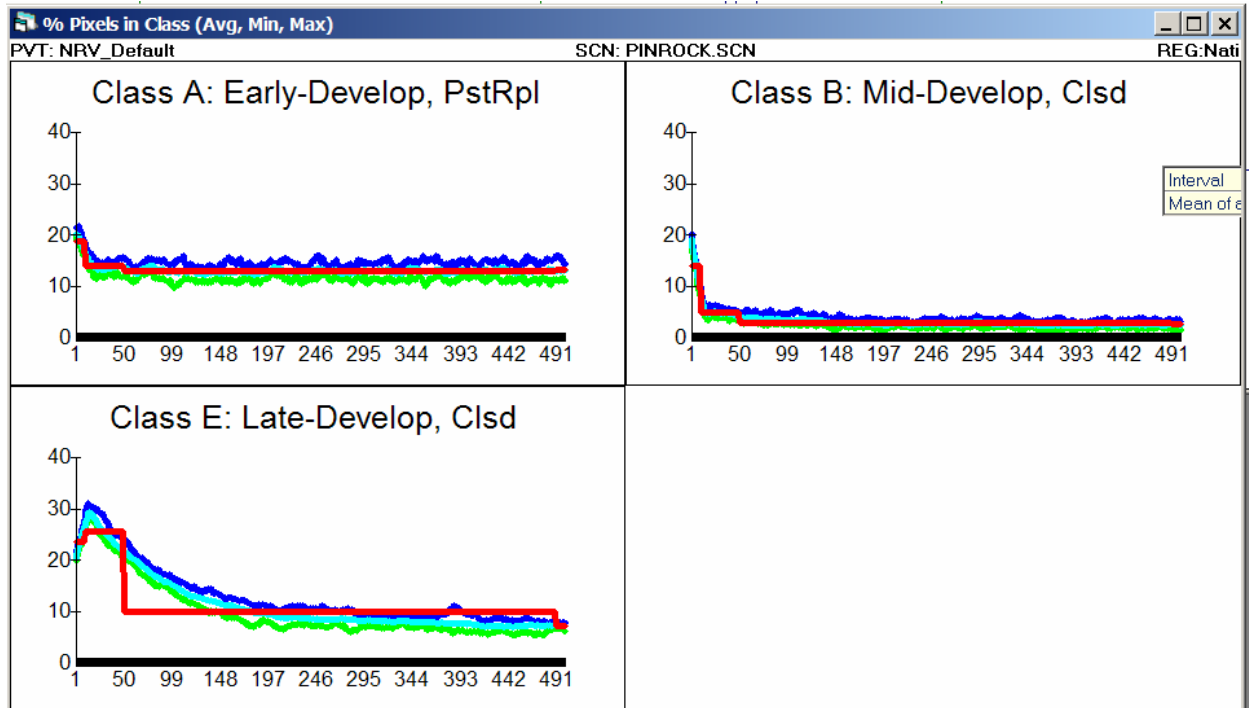
Everglades National Park Fire Management plan and Environmental Assessment (Draft 2003).

VDDT File Documentation

Include screen captures (print-screens) from any of the VDDT graphs that were used to develop reference conditions.









A. Post Replacement



B. Mid-Seral Closed



C. Mid-Seral open



D. Late – Seral Open



E. Late Seral Closed

